

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-11 and 16-19 were pending. Claims 1 and 7 have been rewritten, Claims 3-4 and 18-19 cancelled and Claims 20-39 added. No new matter has been added as a result of this amendment. Claims 1-2, 5-11, 16-17 and 20-39 are pending after entry of this amendment.

Rejection of Claims

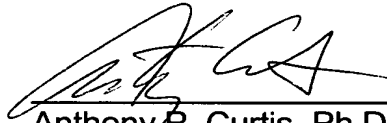
Claims 16 and 17 were allowed. Claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Knerr (U.S. Patent 3,573,665), Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Knerr, and Claims 2-3, 6, 8, and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ishikawa (U.S. Patent 6,472,960) in view of Knerr. Claims 4, 7, 9, and 11 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim but the Examiner indicated they would be allowable if rewritten in an independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have rewritten Claim 1 to incorporate the elements of Claim 4 and intervening Claim 3. Applicants have added Claim 20, which incorporates the elements of Claims 1, 3 and 7; Claim 28, which incorporates the elements of Claims 1, 10 and 11; and Claim 35, which incorporates the elements of Claims 1, 8 and 9.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance and seek an early allowance thereof. If for any reason the Examiner is unable to allow the application in the next Office Action and believes that a telephone interview would be helpful to resolve any remaining issues, she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'AP Curtis', is written over a horizontal line.

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